

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 2, 10, and 19 as follows:

1. (Original) A sheet protector comprising:

a sheet of material folded about a fold line to form a front panel and a back panel each having a top edge, a bottom edge, a pair of side edges, the fold line defining one of the pairs of side edges of the panels;

the panels being welded together at:

a bottom weld line located along the bottom edges;

an outer weld line located along the side edges opposite the fold line;

an inner weld line located in a spaced relationship from the outer weld line, such that a margin is defined between the outer and inner weld lines;

the fold line, the bottom weld line, and the inner line defining between the panels a pocket with an opening along the top edges of the panels;

the inner weld line extending to a location that is short of the top edges of the panels, such that the opening of the pocket extends into the margin.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The sheet protector of claim 1~~ A sheet protector comprising:

a sheet of material folded about a fold line to form a front panel and a back panel each having a top edge, a bottom edge, a pair of side edges, the fold line defining one of the pairs of side edges of the panels;

the panels being welded together at:

a bottom weld line located along the bottom edges;

an outer weld line located along the side edges opposite the fold line;

an inner weld line located in a spaced relationship from the outer weld line, such that a margin is defined between the outer and inner weld lines;

the fold line, the bottom weld line, and the inner line defining between the panels a pocket with an opening along the top edges of the panels;

the inner weld line extending to a location that is short of the top edges of the panels, such that the opening of the pocket extends into the margin;

wherein the outer weld line extends to a location that is short of the top edges of the panels, such that the opening of the pocket extends through the margin.

3. (Original) The sheet protector of claim 1 wherein the panels are welded together along a margin weld line extending from the inner weld line to the outer weld line.
4. (Original) The sheet protector of claim 3 wherein the margin weld line intersects the outer weld line at or near a top margin corner of the panels.
5. (Original) The sheet protector of claim 3 wherein the margin weld line intersects the outer weld line at a location spaced from the top edges of the panels.
6. (Original) The sheet protector of claim 3 wherein the margin weld line intersects the outer weld line at a location at least about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the top edges of the panels.
7. (Original) The sheet protector of claim 3 wherein the margin weld line extends at an angle outwardly from the inner weld line.
8. (Original) The sheet protector of claim 1 wherein the panels have a notch disposed at a top margin corner thereof.
9. (Original) The sheet protector of claim 8 wherein a size of the notch in the front panel is smaller than the size of the notch in the back panel.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The sheet protector of claim 8 wherein~~ A sheet protector comprising:

a sheet of material folded about a fold line to form a front panel and a back panel each having a top edge, a bottom edge, a pair of side edges, the fold line defining one of the pairs of side edges of the panels;

the panels being welded together at:

a bottom weld line located along the bottom edges;

an outer weld line located along the side edges opposite the fold line;

an inner weld line located in a spaced relationship from the outer weld line, such that a margin is defined between the outer and inner weld lines;

the fold line, the bottom weld line, and the inner line defining between the panels a pocket with an opening along the top edges of the panels;

the inner weld line extending to a location that is short of the top edges of the panels, such that the opening of the pocket extends into the margin;

wherein:

the panels have a notch disposed at a top margin corner thereof; and

the panels include a tab formed at the notch.

11. (Original) The sheet protector of claim 1 further comprising a reinforcing strip disposed in the margin between the panels.

12. (Original) The sheet protector of claim 11 wherein the panels have a notch disposed at a top margin corner thereof, such that a top end of the strip is angled complementarily with the notch;

the top end of the strip being attached to one of the panels.

13. (Original) The sheet protector of claim 1 further comprising one or more binder holes formed through the margin.

14. (Original) The sheet protector of claim 1 wherein the opening has a width that is at least about 2% greater than a width of the pocket.

15. (Original) A sheet protector comprising:
a front panel and a back panel attached together to form:
a pocket having an opening extending along one side thereof; and
a margin extending along another side of the pocket and substantially orthogonal to the opening;
the opening extending into the margin such that a width of the opening is greater than a width of the pocket.
16. (Original) The sheet protector of claim 15 wherein the panels being welded together at:
a bottom weld line located along bottom edges of the panels;
an outer weld line located along one set of side edges of the panels; and
an inner weld line located in a spaced relationship from the outer weld line, such that the margin is defined between the outer and inner weld lines;
the inner weld line extending to a location that is short of the top edges of the panels.
17. (Original) The sheet protector of claim 15 wherein the inner weld line extends to a location that is at least about 1/4 inch from the top edges of the panels.
18. (Original) A sheet protector comprising:
a pocket having a width;
a margin extending along one side of the pocket; and
an opening having a width and extending along another side of the pocket and into the margin such that the width of the opening is greater than the width of the pocket.
19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The sheet protector of claim 18~~ A sheet protector comprising:
a pocket having a width;
a margin extending along one side of the pocket; and
an opening having a width and extending along another side of the pocket and into the margin such that the width of the opening is greater than the width of the pocket;
wherein the opening extends completely through the margin.

20. (Original) The sheet protector of claim **18** wherein the width of the opening is at least about 2% greater than the width of the pocket.